



Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
2315 North Discovery Place, Spokane Valley, Washington 99216-1566
Telephone (509) 892-1001 • Fax (509) 921-2440

March 18, 2014

Lincoln County Board of County Commissioners
Post Office Box 28
Davenport, WA 99166

Dear Commissioners:

Pursuant to RCW 79A.15.110, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is providing information to Lincoln County regarding our application for grant funding through the state's Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). If successful in obtaining funding, WDFW would seek acquisition of an approximate 150 acre parcel approximately 1 mile east, northeast of the city of Reardan and immediately adjacent to existing WDFW ownership (Reardan Audubon Lake, see attached map).

This acquisition would provide critical habitat for wetland-associated species since it lies at the western edge of the Spokane Plateau, north of the Palouse hills, and east of the channelized scablands. The area provides habitat for more than 100 birds and other wildlife species, with many of them depending on the area for spring and fall migration, and as breeding grounds in the summer. There are six conservation target species associated with this area: Columbia spotted frog, western toad, bald eagle, western grebe, sage thrasher and Townsend's big-eared bat. This acquisition provides important critical habitat; providing aquatic, wetland, riparian and lakeshore habitats interspersed with shrub steppe and steppe habitats. If acquired the site would be included as part of the Audubon Washington Important Bird Area nomination's and would be a valuable addition to the Reardan Lakes stop on the Northeast Washington Birding "Palouse to Pines" trail.

The WWRP program is administered by the state's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). RCW 79A.15.110 provides that Lincoln County may, at its discretion, submit a letter to the RCO (PO Box 40917, Olympia, WA 98504-0917) identifying its position with regard to the proposed grant (RCO project No. 14-1097). The RCO will make any letter received available to the Governor and Legislature when the WWRP project list is submitted for funding.

I know that you, as well as the local community, has supported the initial Audubon Lake acquisition and I expect that support to continue. If you would like more information regarding this grant request, please call me at 509-892-7852 (office) or 509-385-6441 (cell).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Pozzanghera".

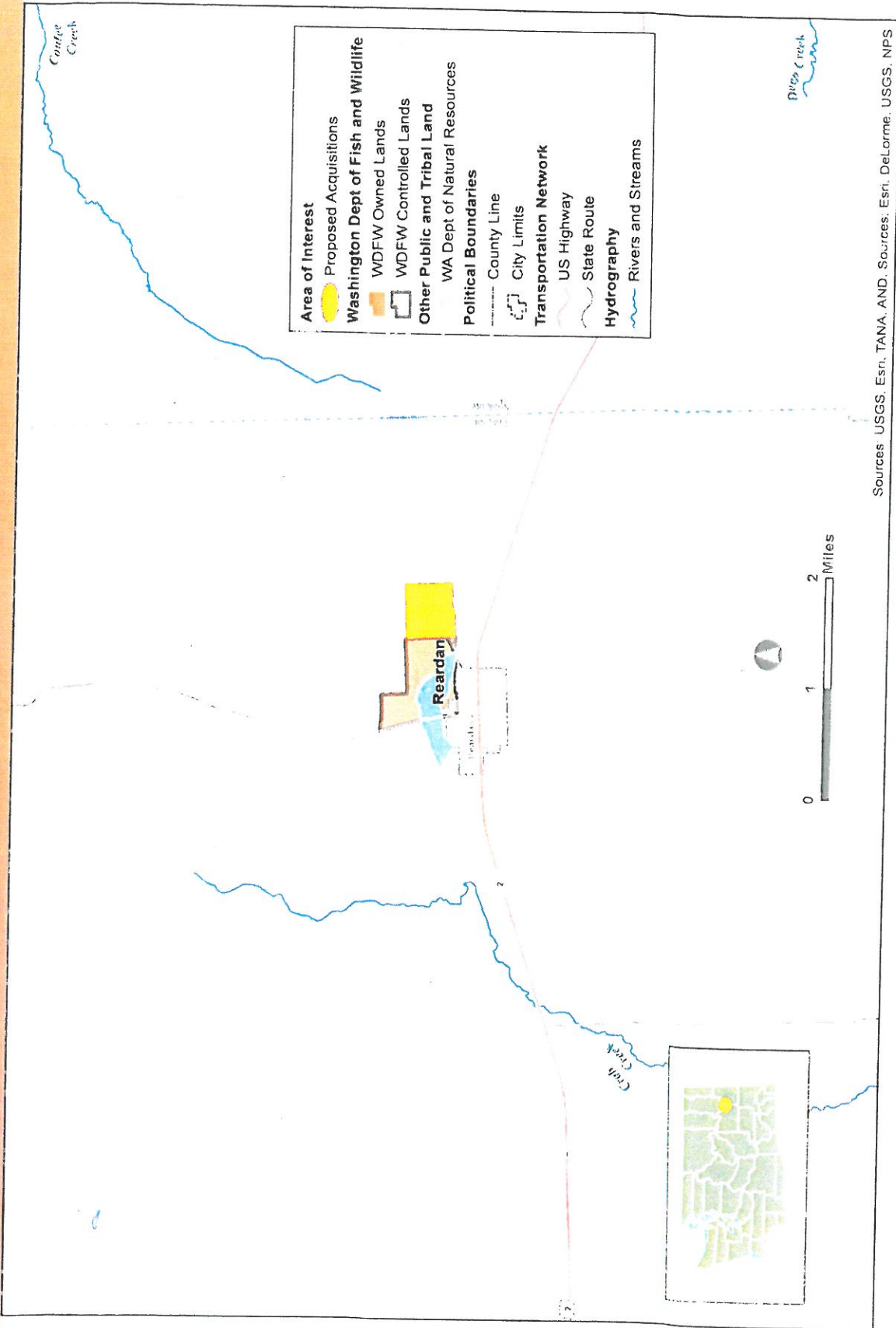
Steve Pozzanghera, Regional Director
WDFW's Eastern Region (Region 1)

Attachments

Cc: Lisa Coffman, WDFW, Real Estate Service
Sarah Thirtyacre, RCO, Grant Manager

LINCOLN COUNTY

Reardan's Audubon Lake 2014



Sources: USGS, Esri, TANA, AND, Sources: Esri, DeLorme, USGS, NPS